

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 02039 250815Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, TU

SUBJ: LOCAL REACTIONS TOWARD U.S. POLICY DURING CYPRUS CRISIS

REF: (A) ANKARA 5832; (B) ANKARA 5757; (C) ISTANBUL 1971

SUMMARY: OVERT SIGNS OF ANTI-AMERICANISM HERE THROUGHOUT CRISIS HAVE BEEN SURPRISINGLY FEW AND EVEN PRESS HAS BEEN MORE RESTRAINED THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. MAJOR QUESTION WHICH CANNOT YET BE ANSWERED IS EXTENT TO WHICH NORMALLY MODERATE, PRO-US AND PRO-NATO ELEMENTS HERE HAVE BEEN ALIENATED BY WHAT THEY UNDERSTAND US POSITION TO HAVE BEEN. END SUMMARY

1. ONLY OVERT SIGNS OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN ISTANBUL DURING CYPRUS CRISIS OF WHICH WE AWARE WERE SMALL DEMONSTRATION AT GREEK CONSULATE (REF C) AND SMALL NUMBER OF SIGNS PAINTED ON WALLS IN SCATTERED LOCATIONS AROUND CITY CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS AND DENOUNCING "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM". SEVERAL OF THE LATTER WERE PAINTED OVER OR ERASED THE NEXT DAY, POSSIBLY AT BEHEST MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES, WHILE FORMER WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ISTANB 02039 250815Z

ALLOWED TO REMAIN. EVEN ISTANBUL PRESS, WHICH IN FIRST FEW DAYS

AFTER MAKARIOS OVERTHROW WAS ALMOST UNIFORMLY CRITICAL OF US REFUSAL TO DENOUNCE SAMPSON REGIME, WAS, WITH CERTAIN PREDICTABLE EXCEPTIONS (E.G. LEFT-OF-CENTER YENI ORTAM) LESS VITROLIC AND SESATIONALIST THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. FOLLOWING HELPFUL REMARKS BY PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT, MOST PAPERS, WITH EXCEPTION CUMHURIYET AND YENI ORTAM, IN JULY 23 AND 24 ISSUES HAVE GENERALLY REFRAINED FROM ANTI-US COMMENTARY.

2. MAJOR DIFFICULTY WHICH WE DETECTED HERE WAS EXTENT TO WHICH NORMALLY MODERATE, PRO-US ELEMENTS WERE OUTRAGED BY INITIAL US POLICIES AND PARTICULARLY RESPONSE TO SAMSON REGIME. THESE TYPIFIED THE JOURNALIST ALTIMUR KILIC (REF C) AND HALUK CILLOV, ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AND FREQUENT CONTRIBUTOR TO MILLIYET NEWS-PAPER. LATTER HAS BEEN ALMOST EMBARRASINGLY PRO-US IN PAST BUT RESPONDED VERY EMOTIONALLY TO WHAT HE CONSIDERED "PRO-GREEK" POLICIES OF US. NUMEROUS CONVERSTAIONS IN LAST FEW DAYS INDICATE THIS ATTITUDE WIDESPREAD AND GERMAN CONSUL GENERAL HERE REMARKED TO CONGEN OFFICER THAT HE "CONCERNED" AT FREQUENCY WITH WHICH HE ENCOUNTERING ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDES AMONG MODERATE ELEMENTS. WHILE ECEVIT STATEMENTS HAVE HELPED TO MODERATE THESE REACTIONS, AND WHILE SOME INDIVIDUALS WILLING ADMIT IN DISCUSSION THAT PUBLIC DENUNCIATIONS BY US WOULD HAVE REDUCED OUR ABILITY TO PLAYMODERATING ROLE PRIVATELY, IT CLEAR THAT AMONG SIZEABLE ELEMENT OF MODERATE INTELLIGENTSIA HERE THERE REMAINS CONSIDERABLE EMOTIONAL SCAR TISSUE OVER US POLICIES. EXTENT TO WHICH HEALING PROCESS TAKES PLACE WILL DEPEND IN LARGE PART UPON SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS.

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